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MEDIA STATEMENT ON

STRATEGIC TOXIC AIR REDUCTION (“STAR”) PROGRAM

September 29, 2004 -- The Justice Resource Center and the National Black Environmental Justice Network commend the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District in taking steps to reduce toxic air pollution in the drafting of the Strategic Toxic Air Reduction (“STAR”) Program.

Both JRC and NBEJN recognize that the toxic air pollution in Louisville is plaguing predominantly African American neighborhoods, and constitutes a clear case of environmental racism. The deleterious effects of toxic pollution include poor health among Louisville residents, who suffer from cancer, asthma, heart and lung disease, and other health problems that are associated with toxic pollution. In addition, missed school days due to asthma attacks suffered by a growing number of Louisville’s school children have tremendous socio-economic impacts that are yet to be felt.

JRC and NBEJN urge the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District to demonstrate that its amended regulations will contribute to creating a healthy environment. Specific comments by JRC and NBEJN to the STAR Program are as follows:

- The STAR Program should amend Regulation 1.06, Section 2, Ambient Air Monitoring. Currently, this section provides that the District may require a facility owner or operator to install, operate, and maintain ambient air monitoring equipment. Enforcement of air pollution regulations and laws is only as effective as the air monitoring program. Given the development in air monitoring equipment and recording devices, there are now state-of-the-art monitoring devices that detect and measure air pollutants – both volatile organic compounds and sulfur compounds – on a real-time basis and transfer the monitoring data to a computer, where it can be uploaded to a website or distributed via electronic mail. The District should amend this section to require all owners of facilities to install, operate, and maintain state-of-the-art air monitoring equipment that detect air pollutants on a real-time basis and instantly record monitoring data.
- The STAR Program requires facility owners/operators to provide detailed emissions reports. However, the Program does not, but should, require the APCD

to review and evaluate the emission reports for compliance. The Program should further require the APCD to periodically publish reports that assess the various emission data submitted by the facility owners/operators.

- The STAR Program must establish a standard for toxic air pollution that protects human health. Such a standard must be based on a public investigation and report by the APCD, in consultation with environmental health experts, that meets the following objectives:
 - calculation of the impacts of current pollution levels on the health of people who live in the vicinity of industrial facilities and other sources that release toxic air pollution;
 - calculation of the reductions in toxic air pollution that can be achieved through the use of green engineering technologies and other clean production processes; and
 - assessment of the actual health conditions among people living in the vicinity of industrial facilities and other sources that release toxic air pollution.

The Justice Resource Center and the National Black Environmental Justice Network will submit more detailed written comments on the STAR Program to the Louisville Air Pollution Control District.

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